Sl. No.	Name of the Officer (S/Shri)	Designation	Type of Chargesheet	Nature of allegation
3.	Ramesh Prasad	DGM Gorakhpur	Major Penalty	Irregularity in laying of U/G Cable while working as TDE, Unnao.
4.	G.C. Asthana	DE, Jaunpur	Major Penalty	Irregularity in purchase of stocked items while he was working as SDE, Jaunpur
5.	S.C. Srivastava	AGM, Circle Office, Lucknow	Major Penalty	Irregularity in local purchase while he was working as AE, Electrical, CTO, Lucknow.
6.	B.B. Singh	TDM, Mainpur	Major & Minor Penalty	Irregularities in purchase of material and exceeding financial powers.

IT scheme for rural areas

†200. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been made for providing benefits of information technology to the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to provide benefits of information technology to these people through Hindi or any other regional language, keeping in view, the fact that more than ninety percent population of the country cannot read or write English?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of various schemes providing Information Technology benefits to rural areas are given in enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir. Details are given in the enclosed Statement II.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

I.T. Schemes for rural areas

1 The Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology has undertaken a scheme for setting up Community Information Centres (CICs) at 487 block headquarters in the seven North-East states and Sikkim for promoting application of Information Technology for accelerating socio-economic development of the region. The scheme is being implemented in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. 475 CICs have been setup till date.

The project is mainly aimed at bridging the digital divide and providing connectivity at the grass root level particularly in those areas where the benefits of national development have not reached the community, specially women and children to the desired extent as they have all along been deprived of access to information relevant to their needs.

2. E-Infrastructure and E-Learning Group has no comprehensive scheme for rural and tribal areas. Howevęr, pilot implementation of Rural IT Centres (Samadhan Kendras) has been completed in Ramanathapuram Distt. of Tamil Nadu and 3 more Samadhan Kendra projects were launched in Ujjain (MP), West godavari Distt. (AP), and Chitrakoot (MP). Out of these Samadhan Kendra projects at Chitrakoot (MP) and Ujjain (MP), have been completed. These provide connectivity to internet as well as email and computer facilities to the villagers through localised centres. Besides this, a whole range of other information facilities required in rural areas are fulfilled through Samadhan Kendras.

3. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on computerisation of Land Records (CLR) is being implemented in the country since 1988-89 which included rural and tribal areas also. This Scheme is being implemented jointly by Minister of Rural Development and National Informatics Centre (NIC). Funds are being provided by Minister of Rural Development to States/UTs for installations of Computers at District and Tehsils/Taluk centres and so far 582 districts and 2959 tehsils/taluks/blocks of the country have been brought under the programme.

4. Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, under the Ministry of Rural Development provides assistance at the rate of 100 per cent to

the States and Union Territories for procurement of hardware, office automation packages, training of manpower and development of application software for computerisation up to the division level officers of the line departments.

5. The Ministry undertook a pilot project for providing VSAT connectivity to 15 District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) for providing internet facilities and a web based software for poverty alleviation and rural development programmes. The pilot project has been taken up in 15 districts in 11 States, namely Anantpur and Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh, Thanjavur and Perambalur in Tamil Nadu, Etawah in Uttar Pradesh, Hosangabad, Narisinghpur and Jaisen in Madhya Pradesh, Solan in Himachal Pradesh, Hazaribagh in Jharkhand, Midnapur in West Bengal, Shillong in Meghalaya, Chandrapur in Maharashtra, Sikar in Rajasthan and Almora in Uttaranchal. The project endeavors to establish a system for flow of information in respect of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Jawahar Grami Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Indra Awaas Yojana (IAY) and Watershed programmes.

6. Other projects being implemented by NIC jointly with concerned Ministers *viz.* Agricultural Produce Markets Networking of Mandis, Social Welfare Pension Computerisation. ICT applications in the Rural Development sector, includes: (a) CRISP: Computerised Rural Information Support Project — Rural Soft 2000: Processes of the data related to poverty alleviation schemes sponsored by MRD/SRD and implementation coordinated by DRDA. (b) Rural Bazar: An e-commerce solution that helps DRDA's in marketing of rural products of SGSY beneficiaries. (c) PriaSoft: Addresses the financial management needs and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) such as Zilla Parishad, Block Samiti and Village Panchayat, and is being tested at SivaGanga, Tamil Nadu. (d) ENRICH: A generic solution by NIC and UNESCO for usage in Community Multimedia Centres (CMCs) that is a one stop access, communication & delivery mechanism for communities, customizable in terms of local, Indian language and content.

7. In another noval scheme for developing IT application for the rural and poor people, Media Lab Asia has been set up by the Government as a research company with a network of national laboratories for research, innovation and development, of advanced ICT technologies for the benefit of masses. Media Lab Asia was launched in June 2001 jointly with

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA. The objective of this scheme is to address the grand challenges of poverty, literacy, education, health, employment, and micro-entrepreneurship through the use of information and communication technologies (ICT), on a large co-ordinated scale, using futuristic technology and both academic and non-academic input with creativity, sensitivity, and with a focus on affordable accessibility.

Statement-II

IT benefits to Hindi and other Indian languages speaking population

Department of IT has setup 13 Resource centres for Technology Development in Indian Languages in various parts of the country. These centres have the responsibility of developing tools and technology for application/use of computers in all the 18 constitutionally recognised local languages of India.

Localisation of technology and Content Creation in Hindi and making the content available on computer and Internet, is being spearheaded in Hindi speaking states under the programme: Content Development and IT Localisation Network (Coil-Net).

Both the above initiatives of the Department of IT also directly/ indirectly benefit the rural masses.

The IT projects implemented for rural areas by NIC (mentioned in Annexure I) are also in local languages, and often use icon-based interfaces etc, in order to minimise difficulties experienced by literates/semi-literates.

Samadhan Kendra projects already mentioned at 1.2 caters to the needs of rural people, hence these have strong local language interfaces apart from English. The contents are presented in Tamil (in Ramanathapuram distt.), Telugu (in West Godavri distt. AP), and Hindi in case of Ujjain and Chitrakoot MP).

Disruption of telephone services

201. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that STD services between Delhi and various places in District Kangra and Mandi in Himachal Pradesh remain disrupted for most of the period during the year;